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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION AND THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION ANNOUNCE MORE THAN $1 MILLION IN OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH GRANTS

Over $1 million in grants will continue critical wind energy research and further Maryland's development as wind energy development hub at the University of Maryland, Salisbury University and Morgan State University.

Annapolis, Maryland (September 3, 2013) — Today, the Maryland Energy Administration and the Maryland Higher Education Commission announced the recipients of the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Research Challenge Grant Program. The goal of this competitive grant program, announced in February 2013, is to further Maryland's role as an offshore wind energy development hub. The request for applications called for competitive proposals from Maryland's public colleges and universities for research grants between $250,000 and $1,000,000 which will be funded by the Offshore Wind Development Fund. The Offshore Wind Development Fund was created by Exelon as a condition of its December 2011 merger with Constellation Energy. Five of Maryland's higher education institutions received funding to collaborate on four grants that will further each institution's renewable energy research.

"Offshore wind energy creates clean renewable energy while also creating jobs within our State. The research gathered by our universities as a result of these grants will ensure that Maryland remains a leader in offshore wind energy development and positions our institutions of higher learning to be trailblazers in this clean energy economy," said Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. "Marylanders will benefit from the research that these grants will provide."

The grants will support a diverse range of offshore wind energy research. The funding will span two years from August 2013 to August 2015. The projects funded are:

- Economic Impact of the Proposed Wind Turbines on the Offshore Marine Recreational Fishing Industry Study, *Morgan State University,* $184,947
- Shore Winds: Using Analytics, Simulation Modeling, and Data Visualization to Develop Commercially Viable Decision Support Tools for Predicting and Mitigating Societal, Policy, Workforce, and Supply Chain Barriers to Offshore Wind Energy in Maryland and Beyond, *Salisbury University,* $100,000
- Grid Interconnected Reliable Offshore Wind Energy Research, *University of Maryland, College Park in collaboration with Bowie State University and Frostburg State University,* $215,398

- Maryland Offshore Wind Farm Integrated Research (MOWFIR): Wind Resources, Turbine Aeromechanics, Prognostics and Sustainability, *University of Maryland, College Park in collaboration with Bowie State University and Frostburg State University,* $554,025

“The Maryland Higher Education Commission is pleased to see such strong interest in offshore wind energy research from our public institutions,” said Danette Howard, Secretary of Higher Education. “The awarded institutions will bring considerable academic and research talent to bear in responding to the opportunities of offshore wind energy deployment in Maryland.”

A second round of funding for the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Research Challenge Grant Program is slated for announcement in the first quarter of 2014. For more information, please visit, http://www.mhec.state.md.us/grants/MOWER/MDOffShoreWindEnergyGrant.asp.

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The Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) mission is to assist Maryland citizens and businesses to save money through smart investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation. A Maryland state agency, MEA fuels the creation of green jobs by providing funds and resources to expand the use and availability of clean, safe energy.